

## PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY LETTER

March 1, 2011

RE: SB 1052 – An Act Concerning the Practice of Acupuncture  
Public Health Committee Public Hearing March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011

Dear Senator Stillman, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

I'm writing as an acupuncture patient in the state of Connecticut, where I live and presently work as an executive in the health care industry.

I want to thank the Committee for raising SB 1052 ('AAC The Practice of Acupuncture') and not only urge you to approve it in Committee but also to support and advocate for this bill on the Senate and House floors.

In my own experience as a patient, I've learned the great value of acupuncture and oriental medicine (AOM). 15 years ago, I was diagnosed with Asthma by a Licensed Physician affiliated with Hartford Hospital. Due to the complexity and volatility of my asthma, I have been treated very aggressively with prednisone and remain on a form of steroid ever since my diagnosis. In addition to the physician who diagnosed my condition, I have been tested and treated by a number of physicians in the State of Connecticut and in the State of Florida where I was recently a resident for five years. Unfortunately, none of the afore mentioned physicians have been able to get to the root cause of my condition. I can't honestly say that they have spent the time "peeling back the layers of the onion" to understand why I can't breathe on my own.

Feeling hopeless, I discovered how beneficial the unique but common sense methods of AOM diagnosis, treatment and lifestyle recommendations could be. In my case, my acupuncturist identified longer term, underlying body conditions that fed the problem, addressed those with proven AOM techniques, and I was feeling hopeful after the first few visits.

Before getting familiar with this medicine I never knew the depth, breadth and effectiveness of it, and I certainly would never have gotten that information from our state's existing practice law. In these times when our healthcare delivery system is getting more complex, expensive, and reliant on good consumer information, it's incumbent on our lawmakers to make sure our healthcare practice laws truly describe the practices - SB 1052 does exactly that.

In closing, thank you again for raising this important bill, and for your consideration of patients like me in supporting it.

Sincerely yours,

*Cathy L. Galligan*

Cathy L. Galligan  
270 Maple Hill Avenue  
Newington, CT 06111  
(860) 297-1458

Cc: Sandy Nafis, Connecticut State House Representative  
Paul R Doyle, Connecticut State Senator